



Tobacco, Nicotine and Vape Policy

Purpose:

The Board recognizes that the use and possession of tobacco and vaping products by scholars presents a health and safety hazard that can have serious consequences for users, nonusers, and the school environment. The purpose of this Tobacco, Nicotine, and Vaping Policy is to show Propel Schools' commitment to the health and well-being of its school communities and to prohibit scholar possession, use, purchase and sale of tobacco and vaping products. Information from the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about the health effects of using tobacco and/or vaping products can be found on the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/>

Definitions:

State law defines the term tobacco product to broadly encompass not only tobacco but also vaping products including Juuls and other electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). For the purpose of this policy and in accordance with state law, tobacco products shall be defined to include the following:

1. Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means including but not limited to a lighted or unlit cigarette, cigar, little cigar, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, hookah, snuff, and snus.
2. Any electronic device that delivers nicotine or another substance to a person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), e-cigarettes (e-cigs), or vaping devices (disposable or reusable)
3. Any equipment whose designed purpose is to charge vaping devices or other electronic cigarettes whether sold together or sold separately.
4. Any product containing, made, or derived from either natural or synthetic tobacco or nicotine.

The term tobacco product does *not* include the following:

1. A product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product or for other therapeutic purposes where the product is marketed and sold solely for such approved purpose, as long as the product is not inhaled. *NOTE: This exception shall be governed by Board policy relating to Medications.*

Authority

The Board prohibits the possession, use, purchase, or sale of tobacco and vaping products as outlined in this policy and as described in the Propel Schools Scholar Conduct and Discipline Code.



The Board prohibits scholar possession or use of products marketed and sold as tobacco cessation products or for other therapeutic purposes, except as authorized in the Board's Medication policy.

The Board prohibits scholar possession of any form of medical marijuana at any time in a school building; on school buses or other vehicles that are providing transportation to or from Propel Schools or any sanctioned Propel Schools event; on property owned, leased, or controlled by Propel Schools; or at school-sponsored activities that are held off school property. The Board authorizes the confiscation and disposal of products prohibited by this policy.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee may develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. The Superintendent or designee shall notify scholars, parents/guardians, and staff about the Board's tobacco and vaping products policy by publishing information in scholar handbooks, the Code of Student Conduct, parental newsletters, posters, and by other efficient methods such as posted notices, signs, and on the school website.

Reporting:

1. **Parental Reporting:** The Superintendent or designee shall notify the parent/guardian of any scholar directly involved in an incident involving the possession, use, purchase, or sale of a tobacco or vaping product, as soon as practicable. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the parent/guardian whether the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school property has been or may be notified of the incident. The Superintendent or designee shall document attempts made to reach the parent/guardian.
2. **Office of Safe Schools Report:** The Superintendent or designee shall annually, by July 31, report all incidents of possession, use, or sale of tobacco and vaping products by scholars to the Office for Safe Schools on the required form.
3. **Law Enforcement Incident Report:** The Superintendent or designee may report incidents of possession, use, or sale of tobacco and vaping products, by scholars to the school police, School Resource Officer (SRO), or to the local police department that has jurisdiction over the school's property, in accordance with state law and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

Guidelines

Students found in violation of this Tobacco, Nicotine, and Vaping policy shall have the tobacco product or device defined above confiscated and disposed of. Tampering with devices installed by the school to detect the use of tobacco or vaping products shall be deemed a violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action.

The progressive discipline consequences described in the Propel Schools Scholar Conduct and Discipline Code, including Appendix Z, are to be applied to violations of this Tobacco, Nicotine and Vaping policy. In addition, a scholar who commits a first offense may be offered, in lieu of a



school suspension, the option to enroll and complete a tobacco, nicotine and vaping awareness program approved by Propel Schools and consented to by the scholar’s parent/guardian.

Cessation Resources

Scholars, teachers, staff, or visitors interested in resources around quitting tobacco and becoming smoke-free can contact the Pennsylvania Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669), 1-855-DEJELLO-YA (en español, 1-855-355-3569) or visit www.pa.quitlogix.org. Information can also be obtained from Adagio Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s regional primary contractor for tobacco prevention, cessation, and control programming in Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Scholars with Disabilities

In the case of a scholar with a disability, including a scholar for whom an evaluation is pending, the school shall take all steps required to comply with state and federal laws and regulations, the procedures set forth in the memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and Board policies.

Approved By	Date
Dr. Tina Chekan	10/23/23
Board of Trustees	10/23/23